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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard W. Strobel
Serial No.: 09/991,287
Confirmation No.: 3691
Filed: November 14, 2001
For: TIN-SILVER COATINGS
Examiner: John J. Zimmerman
Art Unit: 1775

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF KRYSTYN J. VAN VLIET

I, KRYSTYN J. VAN VLIET, do hereby declare that:

1. I am currently employed as an Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). I have expertise in the area of metal coatings including techniques used to characterize properties (e.g., hardness) of such coatings.
2. I have the following degrees: Sc.B. in Materials Science and Engineering, Brown University (1998); Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2002).
3. Prior to being employed by MIT, I worked at Children's Hospital Boston as a Postdoctoral Fellow.
4. I have published a number of technical papers related to nanoindentation hardness measurements including those set forth in Appendix A.
5. I have reviewed the patent application bearing serial no. 09/991,287, entitled TIN-SILVER COATINGS, by Richard W. Strobel (hereinafter "the Patent Application"); the office action mailed June 16, 2004 in connection with the Patent Application; and, the references relied upon by the Examiner including U.S. Patent No. 5,075,175 (hereinafter "Brinkmann patent").
6. The specification of the Patent Application provides sufficient detail such that the following would be clearly understood by those of ordinary skill in the art upon review of the Patent Application:
 - (1) the meaning of "nanoindentation hardness,"

considered 3/12/2004